

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01845 140647Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 A-01 /015 W

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R 140541Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4021

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FOR OES ASST SECRETARY KRATZER AND NEA ASST SECRETARY
ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR PORTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, OGEN

SUBJECT: SCIENCE ATTACHE POSITION

1. YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT THE BURGEONING SAUDI ARABIAN
DEVELOPMENT EFFORT HAS AN IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC ASPECT
BECAUSE OF CERTAIN PROJECTS ENVISAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT.
AMONG ITMES NOW UNDER PLANNING OR CONSIDERATION IS
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN APPLIED RESEARCH INSTITUTE--THE
UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AT DHAHRAN IS IN
CONTACT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE JET PROPULSION
LABORATORY, DR. W.H. PICKERING; SAUDI AUTHORITIES ALSO
PROJECTING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTION FOR GRADUATE
LEVEL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING STUDIES; AND THEY
ENVISAGE A MAJOR ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY FOR THE NEAR
FUTURE.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS CABLE IS TO ASK THAT, IN LIGHT OF
THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND MANY OTHERS, YOU GIVE URGENT
CONSIDERATION TO APPOINTMENT OF A QUALIFIED PERSON
AS SCIENCE ATTACHE TO THIS EMBASSY, WITH THE RANK OF
COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY. MY EMPHASIS IS ON THE WORD
"QUALIFIED." SUCH A PERSON WOULD BE OF VERY GREAT
ASSISTANCE TO THE EMBASSY IN PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO
VARIOUS AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS AND PERSONNEL WHO ARE
BECOMING INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN SCIENTIFIC AND

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TECHNOLOGICAL PROJECTS HERE.

3. I HOPE YOU CAN GIE THIS YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION.
I WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH ANY FURTHER
COMMENT OR DATA ON SUBJECT THAT YOU MAY REQUIRE.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA01845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760096-0680
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760362/aaaaccyd.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCIENCE ATTACHE POSITION
TAGS: AFSP, OGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006